

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Special Events |
|---|
| Local Area Hikes2-3 |
| Species of the Year4 |
| Visitor Centers17 |
| Visitor Center Locations18 |
| Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center: |
| Family Discovery Series4-6 |
| Guest Speaker6-7 |
| Adult Enrichment Series7 |
| Hot Topic Series7 |
| Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station: |
| Family Discovery Series8-9 |
| Lewis Creek Visitor Center: |
| Family Discovery Series 10-14 |
| Adult Enrichment Series 15-16 |





Special Events

BELLEVUE'S 2015 SPECIES OF THE YEAR

Beginning this year, select Bellevue Natural Resource programs will feature a native species that is local to our city. The Species of the Year for 2015 is the little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus). This species is one that you may have already seen flying near your home or favorite park. Important predators of insect pests, bats are vital to the environment. But bats are also just plain cool!

Look for this bat icon next to program titles in this guide. These programs will feature information on the little brown bat and bats in general. Come explore what makes the little brown bat so special, and how you can help conserve bats in your own neighborhood. We'll even be going on some guided bat walks! Join us at all three visitor centers in 2015 to learn all about the little brown bat!

1aster Naturalist

MASTER GARDENER HARVEST FESTIVAL, CHILDREN'S FAIR AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Lake Hills Greenbelt Urban Demonstration Garden, 15500 SE16th Street.

After another great growing season, come join the Master Gardeners to enjoy tomatoes, other vegetables and harvest-related demonstrations!

Ages: All ages welcome **Cost:** FREE.

Information: Master Gardener, Mary Osborne at

425-485-5942.





LOCAL AREA HIKES

Did you know Bellevue has almost 100 parks and more than 90 miles of trail to explore? Get connected to your local greenbelts and neighborhood parks as rangers take you on hikes throughout the year. Please dress for the weather, bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Hikes vary in theme and length. Please see details below.

Cost: FREE! Registration: Not required. Info: 425-452-4195.

MERCER SLOUGH RANGER HIKES

Every Saturday, 2 – 3:30 p.m., rain or shine

Join a ranger to take a short hike through the wetlands of Mercer Slough Nature Park. We begin with an overview of the LEED Gold education center and end at the bridge that spans the channel of Mercer Slough. Hear about the natural and cultural history of the slough. Afterward, you are free to explore further on your own, or return to the education center with the ranger.

Distance: 2+ miles.

Level of Difficulty: Easy (30 feet elevation change)

Meeting Place: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625

118th Ave SE Info: 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

LEWIS CREEK PARK RANGER HIKE

Saturdays, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 8, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Join a Ranger in exploring the natural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. All ages welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: approximately 1 mile.

Elevation Change: 50 ft.

Meeting Place: Lewis Creek Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

LAKE HILLS RANGER STATION RANGER WALK

Every Saturday 2 – 3 p.m., rain or shine

Explore the Lake Hills Greenbelt with a Ranger and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area, discover the diversity of native plants and the wildlife that live here. All ages welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: approximately 1 mile. **Level of Difficulty:** Easy, gravel path.

Meeting Place: Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th St.

Info: 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov *Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com*

COAL CREEK PARK HIKE

Saturdays, June 20, August 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife.

Distance: 5 miles.

Elevation Change: Moderate (100 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: Coal Creek East Trailhead (Newcastle

Golf Club Road, west of Redtown Trailhead) Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov



LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Explore the unknown trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open space ravines guide you (and wildlife!) through friendly neighborhoods.

Distance: 3.5 miles.

Elevation Change: Difficult (350 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

WOOF WALKS IN NATURE

Sunday, June 21, 10-11a.m.

Meeting Place: Wilburton Park, Meet at kiosk at south end of parking

lot, 12400 Main St.

Sunday, July 19, 10-11a.m.

Meeting Place: Robinswood Park, Meet at kiosk near off-leash dog

corral, 2430 148 Ave SE.

Sunday, August 23, 10-11a.m.

Meeting Place: Lake Hills Greenbelt, Meet at kiosk at north end of parking lot, 15500 SE 16 St.

Join a Park Ranger and discover fascinating ecological facts about



Bellevue City Parks. Bring your dog(s) and learn how you can enjoy your parks with your furry friends. Please dress for the weather. Dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Families are encouraged to attend.

Ages: All ages. **Course # 94344 (6/21/15); #94433 (7/19/15); #94434 (8/23/15)**



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118 Avenue SE

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Phone: 425-452-2565

Email: MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov

Overlooking the 320 acre Mercer Slough Nature Park, the Visitor Center offers remarkable view of the forest canopy and swampy wetlands below. Inside, enjoy an interactive library and interpretive displays for adults and families. Park Rangers provide information and free weekly programs. Pick up trail maps, brochures, and program information today.

Family Discovery Series

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration: Not required.

GREAT BLUE HERONS

Sundays, May 3 & 10, 2-3 p.m.

Did you know that the Mercer Slough Nature Park is home to a great blue heron rookery? We'll learn about what makes the Slough such a great home for these long-legged birds.

BACKPACKING AND ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE

Sundays, June 7 & 14, 2-3 p.m.

Washington State is a great place to explore. Come learn from a Park Ranger and TRACKS leader, Jenna Walenga, about

preparing for your first hike or overnight backpacking trip. Includes information on what to bring, good trail etiquette, and proper wildlife safety while out in the woods.





ENERGY OF THE SUN

Sundays, July 12 & 19, 2-3 p.m.

Come learn about the amazing relationship we all have with the sun. Learn about how energy from the sun travels through animals and plants, and how without it, we could do nothing at all!

THE INVASION OF THE TURTLES

Sundays, August 9 & 30, 2-3 p.m.

Did you know that up to three different species of Turtles live in the Mercer Slough? Did you also know that only one of them is native? This free program will focus both on the Turtles that live in Mercer Slough, and what it means to be an "Invasive Species" in a natural setting.

Movies

EAGLE – MASTER OF THE SKIES

Friday, May 29, 5-6 p.m.

Take a look at one of the world's most amazing animals, the North American Bald Eagle in this one hour wildlife special. Learn about the predator/prey relationship, and how eagles are important to a healthy ecosystem! Popcorn provided!



EARTH NAVIGATORS

Friday, June 26, 5-6 p.m.

Each year, driven by the changing of seasons, millions of animals navigate from one spot to another, taking part in one of the world's many great migrations. This film explores both the native and exotic navigators of our world, and what drives them to travel such great distances. Popcorn provided!

HOW THE EARTH WAS MADE

Friday, July 31, 5-6 p.m.

"How the Earth was made" plots the twisting course of Earth's amazing journey. Using groundbreaking special effects and traveling to remote locations where our planet still bears the scars of its violent history, this compelling tells the story of unimaginable timescales, world shattering forces, and mass extinctions! Popcorn provided!



REPTILES: TURTLES AND TORTOISES

Friday, August 28, 5 – 6 p.m.

A turtle's shell is among the most peculiar but successful pieces of design in the natural world. Unchanged for 200 million years, it has allowed the various species of turtles to populate almost everywhere

in the world. This episode introduces some inspirational people who are trying to help the turtle keep thriving in our world! Popcorn provided!



Canoe Mercer Slough

Ages: 5+ only. **Cost:** \$16 Bellevue residents, \$18 non-residents. **Pre-Registration Required:** www.MyParksAndRecreation.com.

Call for Info: 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

CANOE THE MERCER SLOUGH

Saturdays & Sundays, Memorial Day - Labor Day. 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (No trips July 4/5, August 1/2). **Enetai Beach Park Boathouse, 3519 108 Ave SE.**

Canoeing experience is required. Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park by water! Bellevue park rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. You'll see how this amazing ecosystem functions as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320 acre wetland. With a little luck, you may catch a glimpse of otters, herons, turtles and other wildlife of Mercer Slough.



Guest Speaker Series

Cost: FREE! **Pre-Registration:** Required. www.myparksandrecreation.com. **Info:** 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

HUGH JENNINGS: DISCOVER THE BIRDS OF ZAMBIA AND THE BIRDS OF MERCER SLOUGH

Sunday, May 17, 2 – 3 p.m.



Join guest speaker Hugh Jennings, as we travel to Zambia through his beautiful photos. Afterwards, take a walk with Hugh Jennings as you explore the birds of The Mercer Slough. This is a perfect time of year to see migrating birds, as well as our resident birds. Please dress for the weather and if you have binoculars please feel free to bring them along! **Course** #: 94667.

WOLF HAVEN

Sunday, August 23, 2 – 3 p.m.

Wolf Haven is a sanctuary near Olympia, WA, that provides a home for displaced, captive-born wolves. Join this FREE, family-friendly program to learn about the wild wolves that live in our state. Wolves mean a great many things to different groups of people. Find out what they can mean to you. **Course** #: 94667.



Adult Enrichment Series

HISTORY OF MERCER SLOUGH

Sunday, July 26, 2 – 3 p.m.

Presented by the Eastside Heritage Center; Take a look at Mercer Slough through the lens of time. Discover what our Nature Park was like before it was abused and how the city is helping it to heal. This program is best for ages 10+. **Cost:** FREE! **Pre-registration:** Not required.

Hot Topic Series

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.

Info: 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

THE REAL SEAHAWKS

Saturday, June 28, 2 – 3 p.m.

Did you know that the Seahawk is a real bird that lives in Washington State? Come learn about Ospreys in this fascinating program. Find out why this bird was chosen as the mascot for your local football team.





Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue and the Pacific Science Center. For information on programs provided by Pacific Science Center, please visit www.pacificsciencecenter.org.





Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16 Street

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 4p.m. Phone: 425-452-7225
Email: ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov
Surrounded by community farms, gardens, and beautiful wetlands, you will find interpretive displays, trails, environmental program information, and friendly Park Rangers to answer your questions.

Family Discovery Series

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration required. Register: MyParksAndRecration.com

Info: 425-452-6993 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov.

NATIVE AMERICAN GAMES

Saturday June 27, 2-3:30 p.m.

Come play some games developed by local Native Americans. Did you know that many of the games we play today were originally developed by these peoples? Discover the rules for the game Slahal, in the Native American way, when you join Eastside Heritage Center volunteer, Barb Williams, for this fun, skill-building and active game program. Be prepared

to go outside and to learn something new! This program is presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with the City of Bellevue Parks Department. **Ages:** 8 +. **Maximum Participants:** 15 **Course #** 94335

BUZZING BLUEBERRIES

Friday July 31, 2015, 2-3:30 p.m. Friday August 14, 2015, 2-3:30 p.m.

Bellevue has some wonderful opportunities for picking blueberries. How do the berries grow? It all starts with a bee or other pollinator. Bring your family to discover how important our pollinators are for blueberries and other plants, then you can check in with farm stands to pick blueberries. Farm stand rates apply to u-pick purchases. Please dress for the weather. Families are encouraged to attend. *Meet at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16 St., Bellevue, WA 98008.* Ages: All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! (optional: U-Pick blueberry rates apply) **Course # 94341** (7/31/15); **#94342** (8/14/15)



OWL PROWL

Friday, August 28, 8-9p.m.

Join a Park Ranger to walk the Lake Hills Greenbelt trails and look for owls as well as other nocturnal wildlife. Learn about and listen for the animals that thrive in the dark! Wear sturdy footwear and be ready to walk the trails in the dark. Bring a flashlight or headlamp for the journey. **Ages:** 5+. **Course #** 94343









Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m Phone: 425-452-4195

Email: lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

This beautiful park offers ample opportunity to wander through forests, meadows, and wetlands. Come inside the Visitor Center to pick up trail and park maps for the area, attend a Natural Resource program, or simply enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Family Discovery

Story Time

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts with a park ranger on the 1st Friday of every month. Parents and children will explore together the diverse animal world with animated fiction and fun. **Pre-registration** is required for each participant – adult and youth. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident **Pre-registration required** at: www. MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195. Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE.

SLITHERING SNAKES AND CREEPY CRAWLIES

May 1, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Young Verdi doesn't want to grow up to be a big green snake. Come find out how Verdi discovers turning green doesn't stop him from being himself! We always make a fun craft to take home! **Ages:** 3+.

Course # 94443, 94444



LOST IN THE WOODS

June 5, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

A new life was born in the woods. He slept alone in the tall grass. Was he lost? The animals of the forest want to know. We always make a fun craft to take home! **Ages:** 3+. **Course #** 94445, 94446

DREAM WEAVER

July 10, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Weave along with a small yellow spider as she enchants and inspires you! We always make a fun craft to take home! **Ages:** 3+.

Course # 94447, 94448

VOICES OF THE WILD

August 7, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

What animals do you hear when you walk through the woods? Come discover different animals voices and how they respond to YOU! We always make a fun craft to take home! **Ages:** 3+.

Course # 94449, 94450

Explorers' Club

FREQUENT FLIERS: MIGRATORY BIRDS OF LEWIS CREEK

May 9, 1 - 2 p.m.

Did you know that some birds migrate thousands of miles every year? Migratory birds are the true international jet setters! Come and learn about the migratory birds that return to Lewis Creek each year. We'll be going on a walk to spot some birds for ourselves; be sure to dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Ages:** 5+.

Pre-registration required at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-4195. **Course #** 94451



Lewis Creek Family Discovery Series Explorers' Club Continued

OWL PROWL

May 15, 7:30 – 9 p.m.



Discover which owl species live in the Pacific Northwest. Then take a night hike with a Ranger to listen for owls and other nocturnal wildlife in the park. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** \$5 Resident \$6 Non-Resident **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885.

Info: 425-452-4195. **Course #** 94452

BAT WALK

May 29, August 14 7:30 – 9 p.m.



Discover the local bat species of Lewis Creek! Then, take a bat hike with a Ranger at dusk to watch for bats leaving their roosting sites!

Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes, for the journey!

Ages: 5+. Cost: \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. Pre-registration

required at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885.

Info: 425-452-4195. Course # 94453, 94454

POND DIP

June 13, 1 – 2 p.m.

The edges of ponds and wetlands are great places for budding naturalists to explore! We will use tools like dip nets and water scopes to get a closer look at the wetland creatures of Lewis Creek Park... what will we find in this unfamiliar under-water world?! **Ages:** 5+.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Not Required.



NIGHT HIKE

August 28, 7:30 – 9 p.m.





When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call Bellevue home, and join a Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. **Pre-registration required** at: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885.

Info: 425-452-4195. **Course #** 94457

TREE DETECTIVES

June 27, 1 – 2 p.m.

How can you use clues, like leaves, flowers, and bark to solve the tree mystery at Lewis Creek? Come discover how to identify different trees that are found in your own backyard! **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not Required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STREAM

July 17, 8:30 - 10 p.m.

SSSSSHHHHHHH!!! What do you see and hear at a stream on a summer's night? Quietly observe Lewis Creek with a Ranger, and find out what the creek is like at night! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5+.

Cost: \$2 Resident \$3 Non-Resident. **Pre-registration required** at:

www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or 425-452-6885.

Info: 425-452-4195. Course # 94459.

WHAT'S IN THE FOREST FLOOR?

July 25, 1 – 2 p.m.

There's so much more to the forest floor than just soil! Come and learn about all the creepy crawlies and other organisms that make the forest floor home.

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not Required.

Info: 425-452-4195.

Movies (Nature Films)

Ages: 8+. Cost: Free! Registration: Not required. Info: 425-452-4195.



HUMMINGBIRDS: MAGIC IN THE AIR

May 10, 2 – 3:15 p.m.

Discover the fast and marvelous lives of the tiniest warm-blooded animals on Earth as they are captured at 500 images per second, from nose dives to mating rituals. Run time: 73 minutes.

WOLVES: A LEGEND RETURNS TO YELLOWSTONE

June 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

After being hunted to the brink of extinction, this majestic misunderstood wolf is attempting the comeback of the century in America's beloved Yellowstone Park. Four years in the making, this amazing film invited you to run with the pack for a wolfs-eye-view. Witness the unfolding saga of hardships and affection and the controversy surrounding the decision to reintroduce these wolves back into the heart of the West. Run time: 60 minutes.



JANE GOODALL'S WHEN ANIMALS TALK

July 12, 2 – 3 p.m.

Just like any pet owner, Jane Goodall believes that all animals can talk – it's just that we don't always understand what they're saying. When Animals Talk recounts the amazing stories of animals that have changed the lives of the people they've touched. We witness how animals can learn our language and find unique human-animal partnerships that make the world a better place. Run time: 55 min

RAPTOR FORCE

August 9, 2 – 3 p.m.

Humans have had a unique relationship with raptors for more than four thousand years, first through the ancient sport of falconry, and, more recently, as scientists and engineers have turned to these mighty birds as the inspiration for the latest in aircraft design. In Raptor Force, you'll learn the secrets of these astonishing aerialists, and how they've mastered, more than any other type of bird, the art of soaring. Run time: approx. 60 min.



ADULT ENRICHMENT



FOREST OF STONE: PETRIFIED WOOD AND OUR GEOLOGICAL PAST

May 16, 2 – 3 p.m.

Did you know that petrified wood can be found in the Northwest? Join Paul Kester, president of the Northwest Paleontological Association for an exploration of all things petrified wood; what is it, how did it form, and what did

these ancient forests look like? **Ages:** 13+. **Cost:** Free! **RSVP is required** at LCVC@Bellevuew.gov. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

HOT TOPICS IN WASHINGTON STATE: WILDFIRES

June 21, 1 – 2 p.m.

Did you know that fire plays an important role in ecosystems? Many ecosystems have evolved with fire as a necessary contributor to a healthy habitat. Come discover how natural wildfires can be both beneficial to wildlife habitat, and learn how you can prevent unnatural wildfires from flaring up. **Ages:** 12+. **Cost:** Free! **Registration**: Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.



Living With Wildlife Series

How do I get the deer to stop eating my rose bushes? What do I do about mountain beavers in my yard? Just how smart are those crows and ravens going through my garbage? How fortunate we are to live in a city full of wildlife! But this also leaves us with the responsibility of learning how to live with our furry and feathered neighbors. Learn about the wildlife that lives in and around Bellevue and how to live in harmony with wild animals. **Ages:** 12+. **Cost:** Free! **Registration**: Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.



BACKYARD BATS

July 26, 1 – 2 p.m.



Washington is home to 15 species of bats! Every fall these bats find a place to hibernate, hopefully avoiding human structures in their search. Find out what species live in Bellevue and how you can prevent your home from becoming a bat cave.

THAT WOODPECKER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

August 23, 1 – 2 p.m.

Tap-tap-tap is the calling card of many woodpeckers in the summer months. What may be driving you crazy might actually be beneficial to you! Come and learn why Woodpeckers are a benefit to homeowners, and we can get along together.





VISITOR CENTERS



Mercer Slough Environmental **Education Center** 425-452-2565 1625 118 Avenue SE

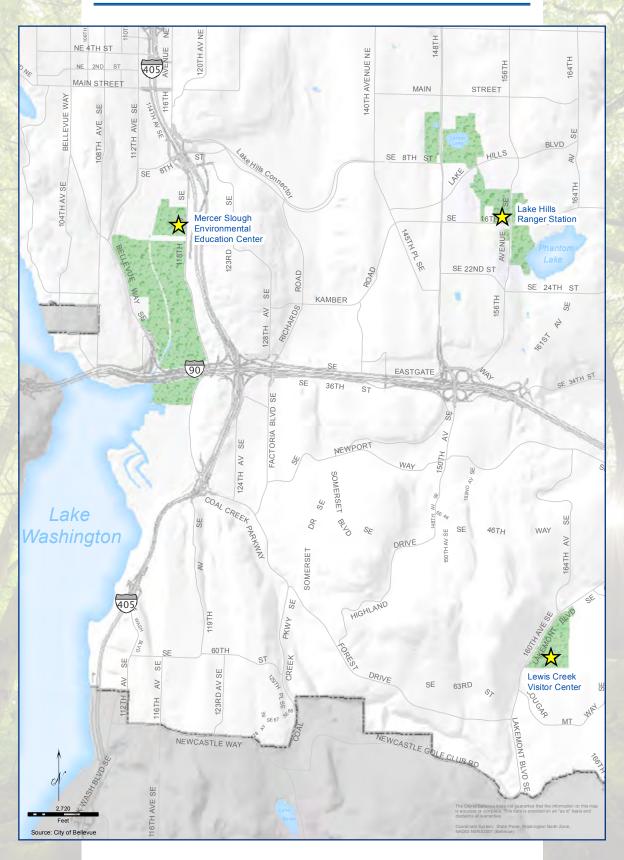


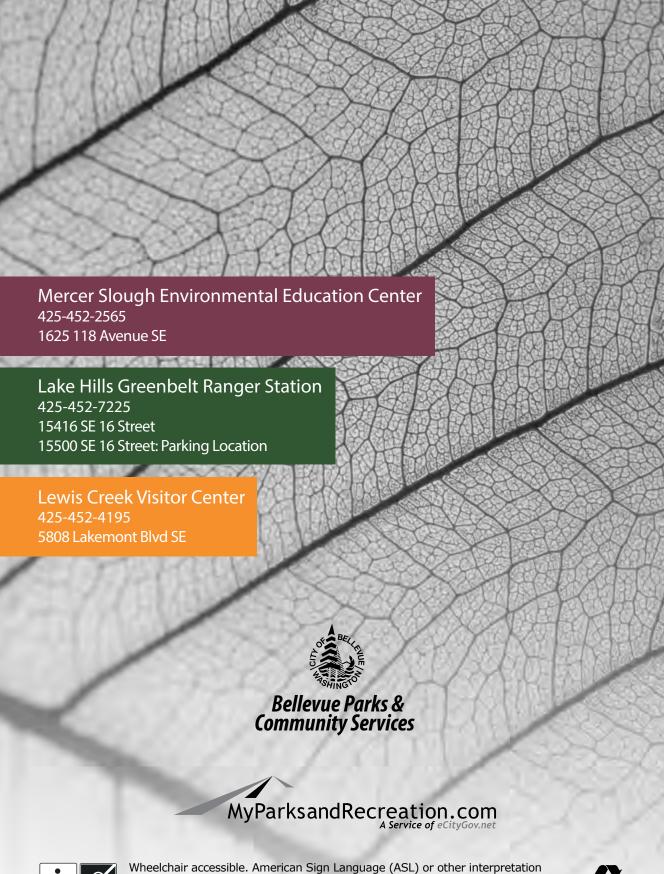
Lake Hills Greenbelt **Ranger Station** 425-452-7225 15416 SE 16 Street (15500 SE 16 Street: Parking Location)



Lewis Creek Visitor Center 425-452-4195 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

VISITOR CENTER LOCATIONS







Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) or other interpretation available upon request. Assisted listening devices available. Call at least 48 hours in advance for any request. 425-452-6884 or Relay Service 711.

